



00862.023239.

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
KAZUYA IMAFUKU, et al.)
Application No.: 10/664,948) Group Art Unit: 2621
Filed: September 22, 2003)
For: IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD)
AND APPARATUS : June 15, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of each of the documents (17) to (29) so listed is enclosed.

- (1) U.S. Patent No. 4,313,124
- (2) U.S. Patent No. 4,345,262
- (3) U.S. Patent No. 4,459,600
- (4) U.S. Patent No. 4,463,359
- (5) U.S. Patent No. 4,558,333
- (6) U.S. Patent No. 4,608,577
- (7) U.S. Patent No. 4,723,129
- (8) U.S. Patent No. 4,740,796
- (9) U.S. Patent No. 5,201,013
- (10) U.S. Patent No. 5,315,669
- (11) U.S. Patent No. 5,438,634
- (12) U.S. Patent No. 5,949,965
- (13) U.S. Patent No. 5,973,803
- (14) U.S. Patent No. 6,363,172
- (15) U.S. Publication No. 2002-0063898
- (16) U.S. Publication No. 2003-0067617
- (17) GB 2 352 353
- (18) JP 54-56847
- (19) JP 59-123670
- (20) JP 59-138461

- (21) JP 60-71260
- (22) JP 8-279920
- (23) JP 8-307669
- (24) JP 8-307680
- (25) JP 9-139841
- (26) JP 2729278
- (27) JP 11-10918
- (28) 2000-354172
- (29) Robert W. Floyd and Louis Steinberg,
"An Adaptive Algorithm for Spatial Greyscale,"
Proceeding of the SID, Vol. 17/2 Second Quarter,
75-77 (1976).

Document number (29) was cited in the specification at page 1, document numbers (22) and (27) were cited in the specification at page 2, document number (25) was cited in the specification at page 3, document (28) was cited in the specification at page 4, document numbers (23), (24) and (26) were cited in the specification at page 6, document numbers (7) and (8) were cited in the specification at page 73, document numbers (1) to (5) and (19) were cited in the specification at page 74, document number (20) was cited in the specification at page 75, and document numbers (18) and (21) were cited in the specification at page 77. These documents are believed to be pertinent for the reasons noted in the specification.

English-language abstracts are enclosed for the Japanese documents (18) to (25), (27) and (28). In this regard, U.S. Patent Nos. 5,201,013, 5,315,669 and 5,438,634 are believed to be English-language equivalents of Japan 2729278, U.S. Patent No. 4,608,577 is believed to be the English-language equivalent of Japan 60-71260, U.S. Patent Nos. 5,973,803 and 6,363,172 are believed to be English-language equivalents of Japan 8-279920, and U.S. Patent No. 5,949,965 is believed to be an English-language equivalent of Japan 11-10918.

Inasmuch as this application has not yet received a first Office Action on the merits, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3).

Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,


Attorney for Applicants

Registration No. 39,000

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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|---|--|--|--|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| FORM PTO 1449 (modified) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary) <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> O I P E JUN 16 2004 PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE </div> | | | | ATTY DOCKET NO. 00862.023239. | | APPLICATION NO. 10/664,948 | |
| | | | | APPLICANT KAZUYA IMAFUKU, et al. | | | |
| | | | | FILING DATE September 22, 2003 | | GROUP 2621 | |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|----------|------------------|-------|----------|----------------------------|--|
| *EXAMINER INITIAL | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE | |
| | 4,313,124 | 1/26/82 | Hara | 346 | 140 | | |
| | 4,345,262 | 8/17/82 | Shirato, et al. | 346 | 140 | | |
| | 4,459,600 | 7/10/84 | Sato, et al. | 346 | 140 | | |
| | 4,463,359 | 7/31/84 | Ayata, et al. | 346 | 1.1 | | |
| | 4,558,333 | 12/10/85 | Sugitani, et al. | 346 | 140 | | |
| | 4,608,577 | 8/26/86 | Hori | 346 | 140 | | |
| | 4,723,129 | 2/2/88 | Endo, et al. | 346 | 1.1 | | |
| | 4,740,796 | 4/26/88 | Endo, et al. | 346 | 1.1 | | |

| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|---------|----------------|-------|----------|---------------------------------|--|
| | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT | |
| | 2 352 353 | 1/24/01 | United Kingdom | | | | |
| | 54-56847 | 5/8/79 | Japan | | | Abstract | |
| | 59-123670 | 7/17/84 | Japan | | | Abstract | |
| | 59-138461 | 8/8/84 | Japan | | | Abstract | |
| | 60-71260 | 4/23/85 | Japan | | | Abstract | |

| OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) | |
|--|--|
| | Robert W. Floyd and Louis Steinberg, "An Adaptive Algorithm for Spatial Greyscale," Proceeding of the SID, Vol. 17/2 Second Quarter, 75-77 (1976). |
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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|---|--|--|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| FORM PTO 1449 (modified) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary) | | | ATTY DOCKET NO. 00862.023329 | | APPLICATION NO. 10/664,948 | |
| | | | APPLICANT KAZUYA IMAFUKU, et al. | | | |
| | | | FILING DATE September 22, 2003 | | GROUP 2621 | |

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| *EXAMINER INITIAL | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE | |
| | 5,201,013 | 4/6/93 | Kumagai | 382 | 50 | | |
| | 5,315,669 | 5/24/94 | Kumagai | 382 | 50 | | |
| | 5,438,634 | 8/1/95 | Kumagai | 382 | 169 | | |
| | 5,949,965 | 9/7/99 | Gondek | 395 | 109 | | |
| | 5,973,803 | 10/26/99 | Cheung, et al. | 358 | 534 | | |
| | 6,363,172 | 3/26/02 | Cheung, et al. | 382 | 167 | | |
| | 2002-0063898 | 5/30/02 | Goto, et al. | 358 | 3.01 | | |
| | 2003-0067617 | 4/10/03 | Kato, et al. | 358 | 1.9 | | |

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| | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT | |
| | 8-279920 | 10/22/96 | Japan | | | Abstract | |
| | 8-307669 | 11/22/96 | Japan | | | Abstract | |
| | 8-307680 | 11/22/96 | Japan | | | Abstract | |
| | 9-139841 | 05/27/97 | Japan | | | Abstract | |
| | 2729278 | 12/19/97 | Japan | | | | |
| | 11-10918 | 01/19/1999 | Japan | | | Abstract | |
| | 2000-354172 | 12/19/00 | Japan | | | Abstract | |

| OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) | | |
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